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Forgione

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(54) **HAIR TREATMENT DEVICE**

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A45D 2/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

USPC **132/207**; 132/200; 132/203; 132/222;
132/270

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

USPC 132/270, 200, 202, 203, 207, 208, 209,
132/210, 212, 163, 221, 222, 223, 241, 243,
132/274, 273, 319, 320, 245, 246, 108, 109,
132/112; 401/9, 10, 207, 196, 203, 261;
D28/7, 39, 41

See application file for complete search history.

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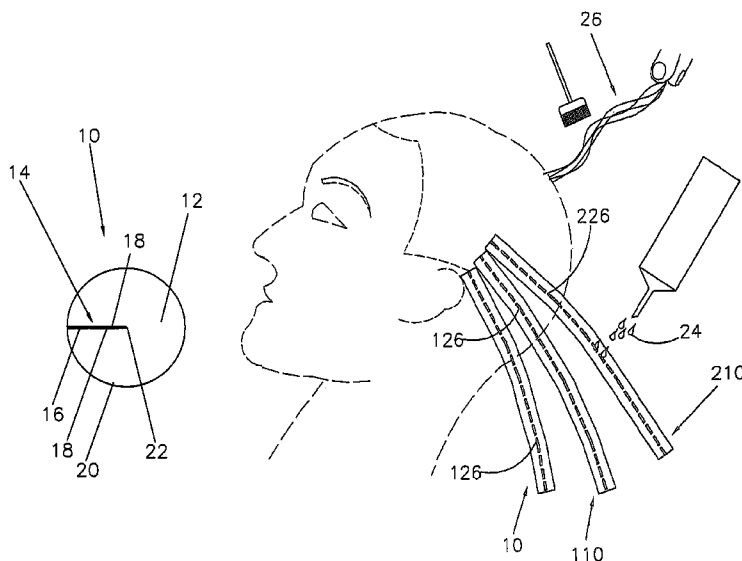
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A hair treatment device or tool to chemically treat a section of hair for highlighting, frosting, perming, coloring, decoloring, straightening, neutralizing, relaxing, conditioning and the like comprising a member or body of lightweight, flexible, resilient, washable, porous, absorbent foam or fabric including at least one hair section treatment channel formed therein extending from the surface thereof to receive a section of hair therein coated or covered with a treating chemical to isolate the section of hair during treatment and absorb excess chemical from the section of hair being treated.

3 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets



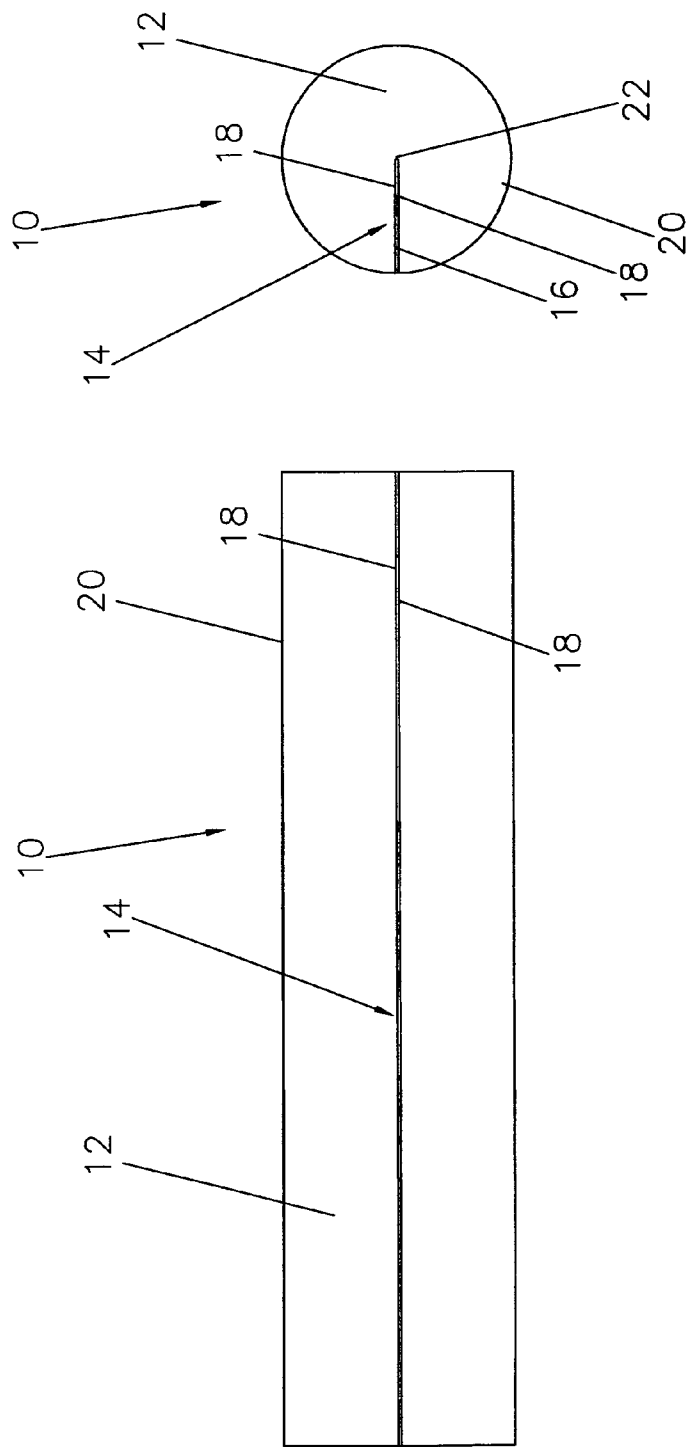


FIG.1

FIG.2

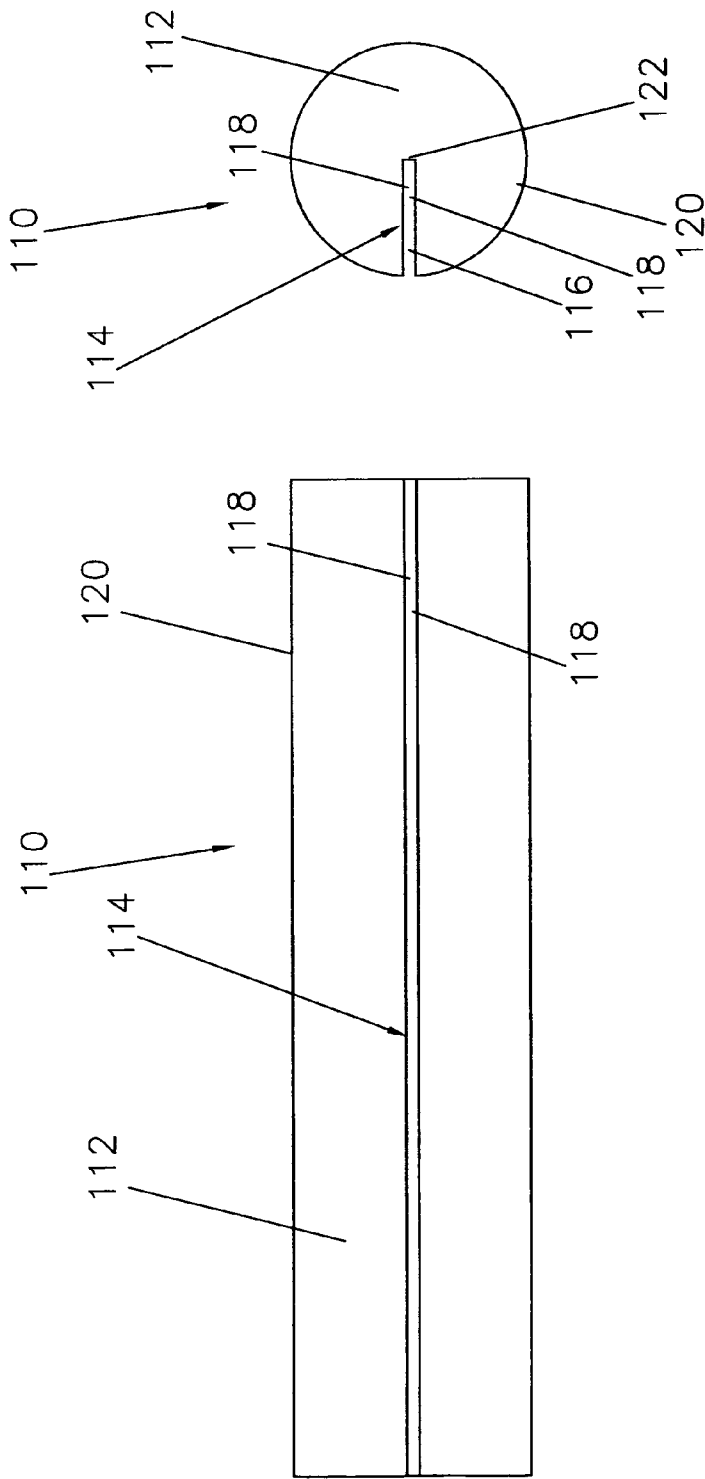


FIG.3

FIG.4

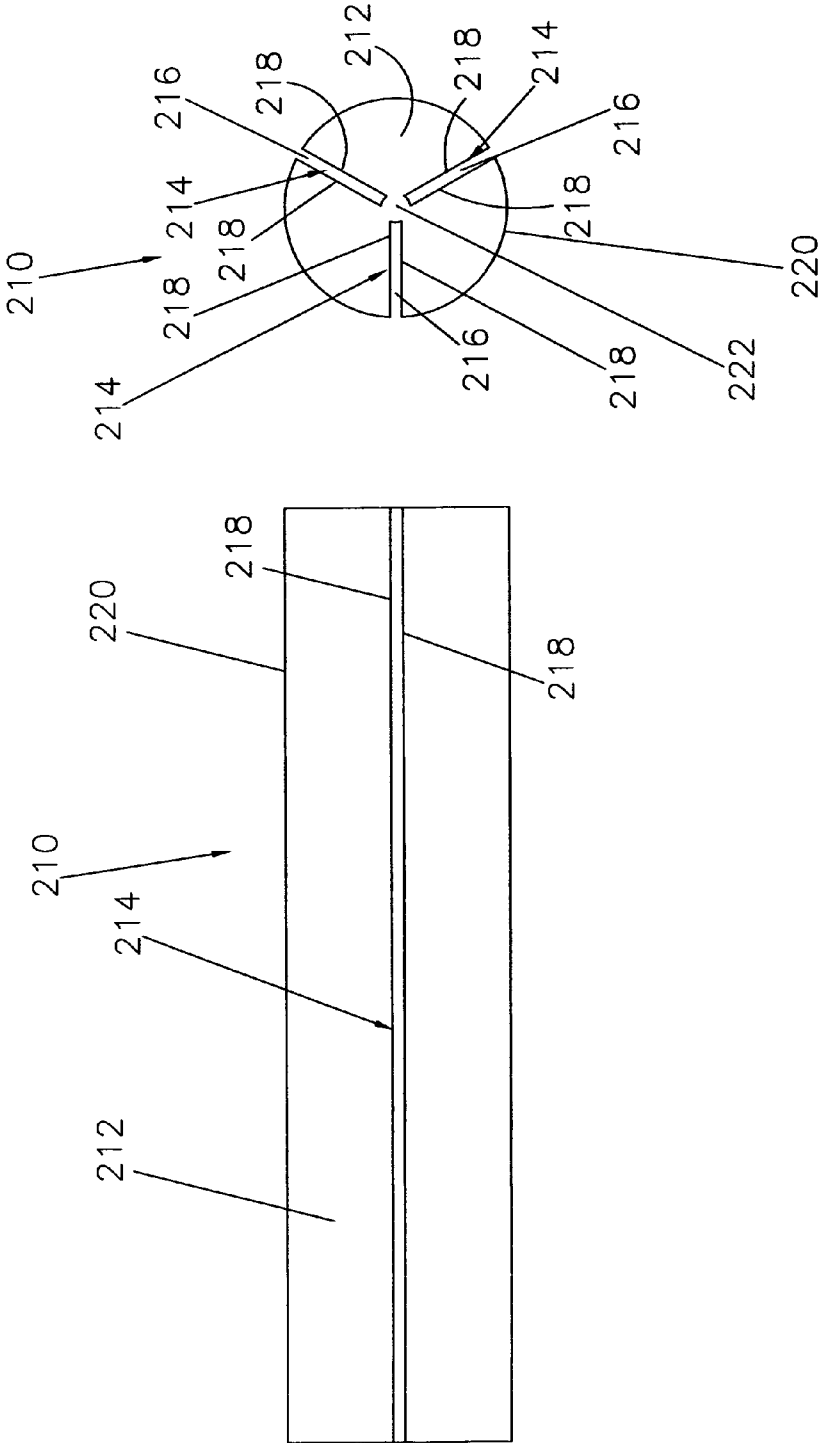


FIG. 5

FIG. 6

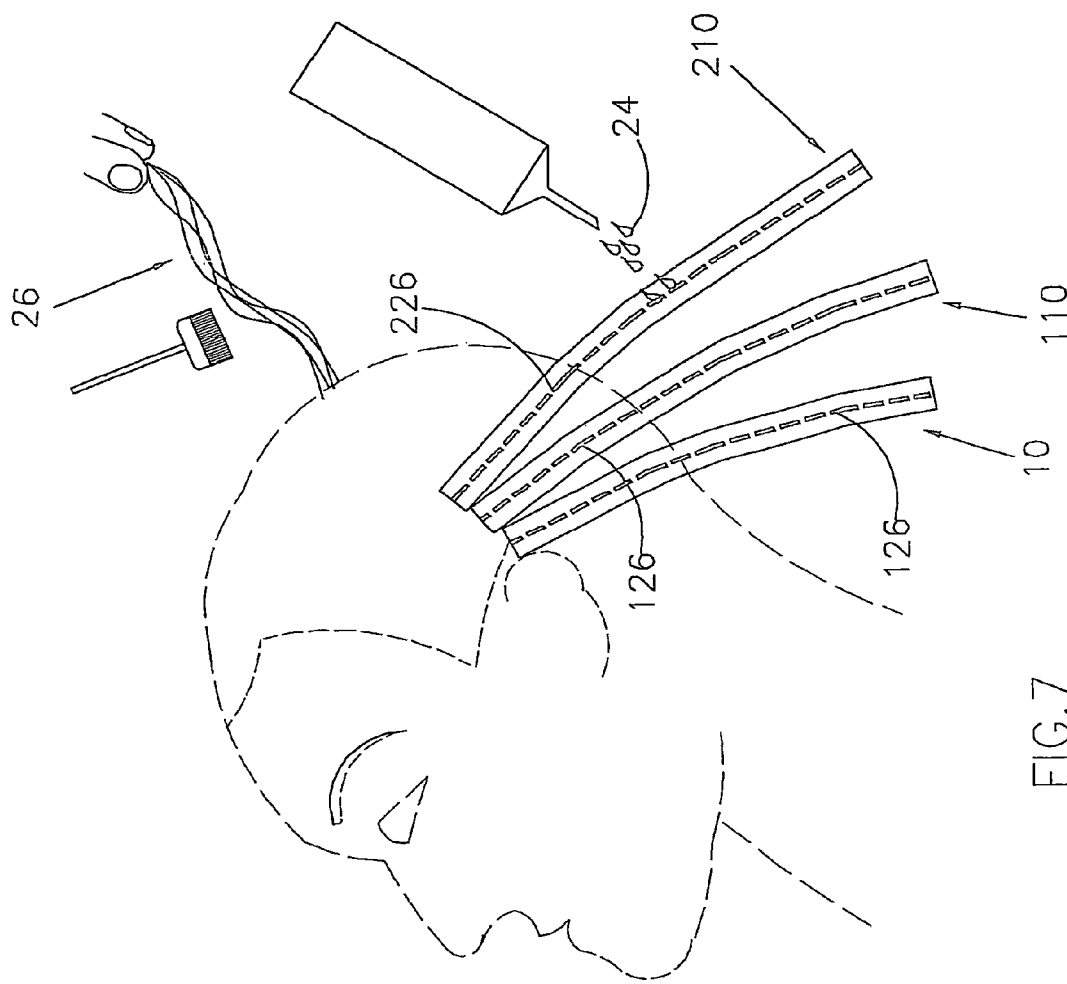


FIG. 7

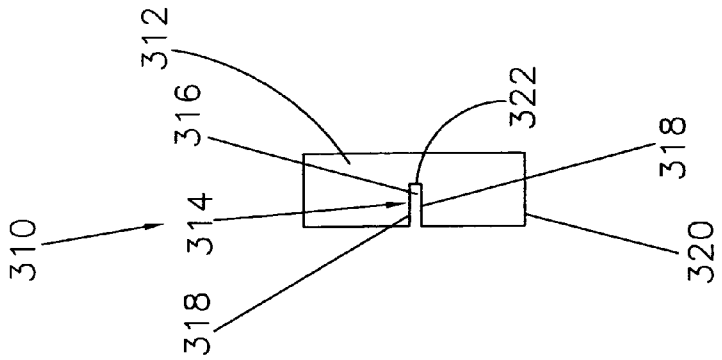


FIG.9

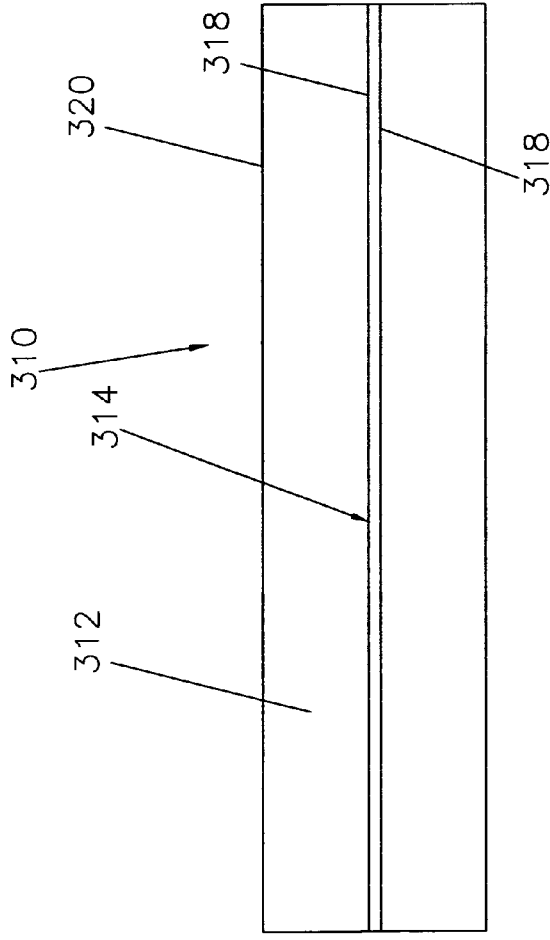


FIG.8

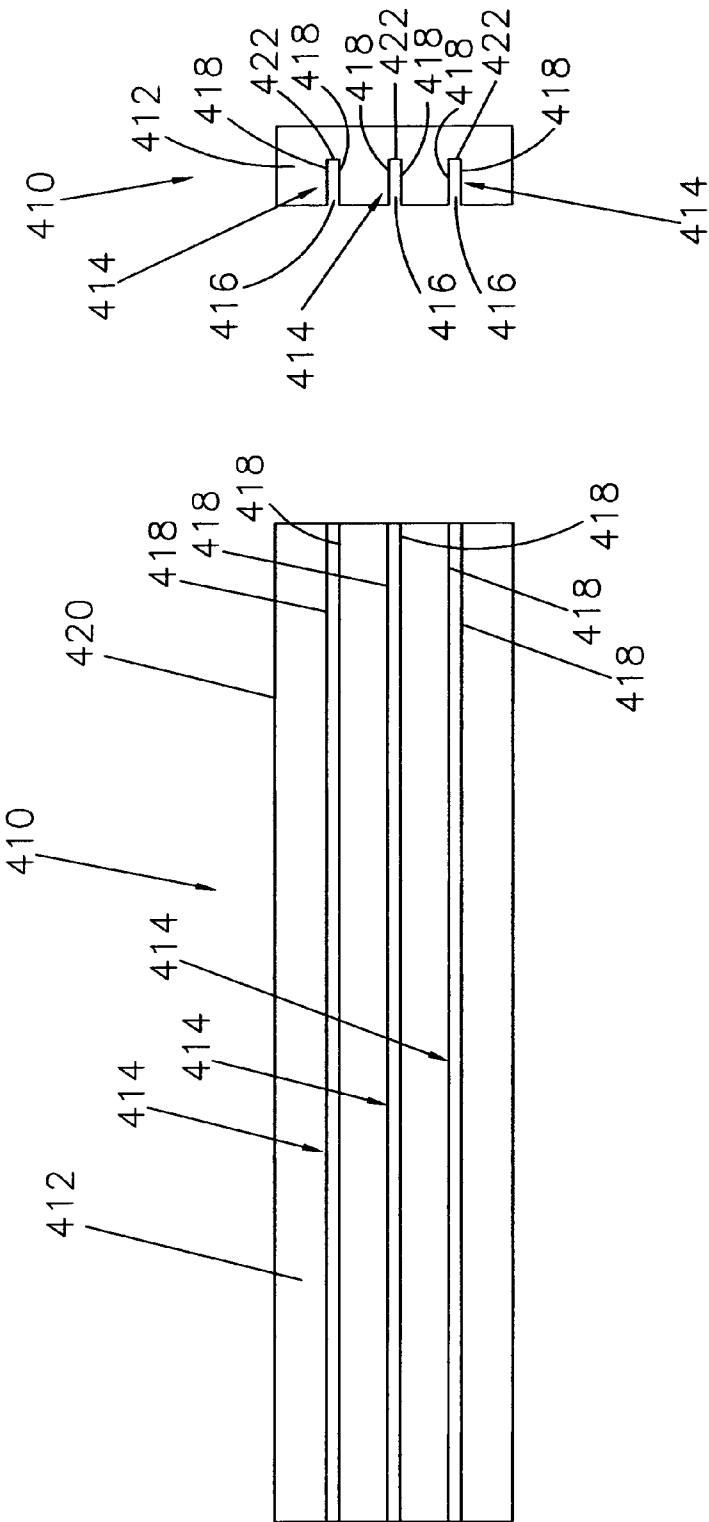


FIG. 11

FIG. 10

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HAIR TREATMENT DEVICE**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION****1. Field of the Invention**

A hair treatment device or tool to chemically treat a section of hair.

2. Description of the Prior Art

Numerous devices have been developed to chemically treat hair for highlighting, frosting, perming, coloring, decoloring, straightening, neutralizing, relaxing, conditioning and the like.

U.S. Pat. No. 3,662,767 shows a clamp to hold a woman's hair in small bunches to permit selective dyeing at the roots. The clamp comprises a plastic shell with resilient plastic opposed members for frictionally clamping a small bunch of hair and holding the hair away from the head.

U.S. Pat. No. 3,941,613 relates to a hair frosting device comprising a container hinged on one side and snapped latched on the other so that it can be opened for placing a strand of hair therein. An opening at one end thereof is notched on one part of the container with cooperating notches on the other part for pulling the hair strand through and positioning it after which the container is filled with a hair treating liquid and closed. This allows the isolated treatment of one or more strands of hair without the problem of treating adjacent strands which are not desired to be treated.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,503,870 shows a coiffure styling device comprising a pair of elongated body members hinged along adjacent edges for closing the device around strands of hair. Attached along the free edges of the body members by stems are complementary hemispherical nodules with rounded camming surfaces and flat engaging surfaces which snap-lock together when the body member halves are hinged to a closed portion. At one or both ends of each body member half is formed a flange flared outwardly to form a base of expanded surface area to support the styling device diametrically outwardly from the scalp of a person. On the inner faces of each body member is a groove for accommodating the hair strands and for containing adequate styling fluids.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,746,165 and U.S. Pat. No. 6,626,599 teach an applicator device for applying product to at least one section of hair includes an elastically deformable component, a reservoir for the product, and a slot at least partially defined by the elastically deformable component. The slot is bounded by edges and is configured to receive a section of hair between the edges. The slot comprises a first slot portion lying in a first plane and at least one second slot portion lying in a second plane different from the first plane.

EP 1,481,605 relates to rolling a lock of hair around a support forming a curl around it. One end of the lock is held in a resiliently deformed slot in the support. The capillary product is applied onto the lock, coating at least part which is rolled around the outer periphery of the support.

Additional examples of the prior art are found in U.S. Pat. No. 3,128,778; U.S. Pat. No. 3,198,196; U.S. Pat. No. 3,452,759; U.S. Pat. No. 3,805,810; U.S. Pat. No. 4,385,638 and U.S. Pat. No. 5,588,449.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a hair treatment device or tool to chemically treat a section of hair for highlighting, frosting, perming, coloring, decoloring, straightening, neutralizing, relaxing, conditioning and the like.

The hair treatment device or tool comprises a body constructed of a lightweight, flexible, resilient, absorbent mate-

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rial having at least one hair section treatment channel extending substantially the length thereof.

Chemical is applied directly to each section of hair to be treated before each section of hair is placed or positioned in a hair section treatment channel.

Alternately, chemical may be placed into the hair section treatment channels before sections of hair are placed in the hair section treatment channels.

The invention accordingly comprises the features of construction, combination of elements, and arrangement of parts which will be exemplified in the construction hereinafter set forth, and the scope of the invention will be indicated in the claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

For a fuller understanding of the nature and object of the invention, reference should be had to the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a top view of the hair treatment device or tool of the present invention including a hair section treatment channel.

FIG. 2 is an end view of the hair treatment device or tool of the present invention including a hair section treatment channel of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a top view of the hair treatment device or tool of the present invention including an alternate embodiment of a hair section treatment channel.

FIG. 4 is an end view of the hair treatment device or tool of the present invention including an alternate embodiment of a hair section treatment channel of FIG. 3.

FIG. 5 is a top view of the hair treatment device or tool of the present invention including another alternate embodiment of a hair section treatment channel.

FIG. 6 is an end view of the hair treatment device or tool of the present invention including an alternate embodiment of a hair section treatment channel of FIG. 5.

FIG. 7 depicts the application of chemical to a section of hair using the hair treatment device or tool of the present invention.

FIG. 8 is a top view of the hair treatment device or tool of the present invention including yet another embodiment of a hair treatment device or tool of the present invention including a hair section treatment channel.

FIG. 9 is an end view of the hair treatment device or tool of the present invention including an alternate embodiment of a hair section treatment channel of FIG. 8.

FIG. 10 is a top view of the hair treatment device or tool of the present invention including still yet another alternate embodiment of a hair treatment device or tool of the present invention including hair section treatment channel.

FIG. 11 is an end view of the hair treatment device or tool of the present invention including an alternate embodiment of a hair section treatment channel of FIG. 10.

Similar reference characters refer to similar parts throughout the several views of the drawings.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

As shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, the present invention relates to a hair treatment device or tool generally indicated as 10 to chemically treat a section of hair for highlighting, frosting, perming, coloring, decoloring, straightening, neutralizing, relaxing, conditioning and the like.

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The hair treatment device or tool **10** comprises a substantially cylindrical body **12** having a hair section treatment channel **14** extending substantially the length thereof. Of course, the hair section treatment channel **14** may extend the entire length of the substantially cylindrical body **12**.

The substantially cylindrical body **12** is constructed of a lightweight, flexible, resilient, washable, porous, absorbent foam or fabric.

As best shown in FIG. 2, the hair section receiving channel **14** comprises a slit **16** including two absorbent interior surfaces **18** extending from the outer surface **20** of the substantially cylindrical body **12** to substantially the center **22** thereof.

FIGS. 3 and 4 show an alternate embodiment of the hair treatment device or tool generally indicated as **110**. Specifically, the hair treatment device or tool **110** comprises a substantially cylindrical body **112** having a hair section treatment channel **114** extending substantially the length thereof. Of course, the hair section treatment channel **114** may extend the entire length of the substantially cylindrical body **112**.

The substantially cylindrical body **112** is constructed of a lightweight, flexible, resilient, washable, porous, absorbent foam or fabric.

As best shown in FIG. 4, the hair section receiving channel **114** comprises a slot or groove **116** including two absorbent interior surfaces **118** extending from the outer surface **120** of the substantially cylindrical body **112** to substantially the center **122** thereof and a third absorbent interior surface **118**.

FIGS. 5 and 6 show another alternate embodiment of the hair treatment the hair treatment device or tool generally indicated as **210**. Specifically, the hair treatment device or tool **210** comprises a substantially cylindrical body **212** having a plurality of hair section treatment channels **214** extending substantially the length thereof. Of course, the hair section treatment channel **214** may extend the entire length of the substantially cylindrical body **212**.

The substantially cylindrical body **212** is constructed of a lightweight, flexible, resilient, washable, porous, absorbent foam or fabric.

As best shown in FIG. 6, each hair section receiving channel **214** comprises a slot or groove **216** including two absorbent interior surfaces **218** extending from the outer surface **220** of the substantially cylindrical body **212** to substantially the center **222** thereof and a third absorbent interior surface **218**.

The method of using the hair treatment device or tool **10/110/210** is depicted in FIG. 7. Specifically, chemical **24** may be dispensed from a bottle and applied directly to each section of hair **26/126/226** to be treated before each section of hair **26/126/226** is placed or positioned in a hair section treatment channel **14/114/214**.

Of course, chemical **24** may be applied with a brush or digitally by the thumb and index finger.

Alternately, chemical **24** may be placed into the hair section treatment channels **14/114/214** before the sections of hair **26/126/226** are placed in the hair section treatment channels **14/114/214**.

Otherwise, each section of hair **26/126/226** may be placed or positioned in a hair treatment channel **14/114/214** before chemical **24** is applied to each section of hair **26/126/226**.

In application, the chemical may be evenly spread over the sections of hair **26/126/226** by digitally massaging or squeezing the substantially cylindrical body **12/112/212**. In addition, the porosity of the interior surfaces **18/118/218** of the substantially cylindrical bodies **12/112/212** allow excess chemical to be absorbed into the interior surfaces **22/122/222** of the hair section treatment channels **14/114/214**.

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Once the chemical has had sufficient time to effectively react with the hair sections **26/126/226**, the hair treatment devices or tools **10/110/210** are removed and washed for reuse.

Since the sections of hair **26/126/226** are isolated in the corresponding hair section treatment channel **14/114/214**, the chemical **24** does not dry or affect hair not intended to be treated.

FIGS. 8 and 9 show yet another alternate embodiment of the hair treatment device or tool generally indicated as **310**. Specifically, the hair treatment device or tool **310** comprises a substantially rectilinear body **312** having a hair section treatment channel **314** extending substantially the length thereof. Of course, the hair section treatment channel **314** may extend the entire length of the substantially rectilinear body **312**.

The substantially rectilinear body **312** is constructed of a lightweight, flexible, resilient, washable, porous, absorbent foam or fabric.

As best shown in FIG. 9, the hair section receiving channel **314** comprises a slot or groove **316** including two absorbent interior surfaces **318** extending from the outer surface **320** of the substantially rectilinear body **312** to the center **322** thereof and a third absorbent interior surface **318**.

FIGS. 10 and 11 show yet still another alternate embodiment of the hair treatment device or tool generally indicated as **410**. Specifically, the hair treatment device or tool **410** comprises a substantially rectilinear body **412** having a plurality of hair section treatment channels **414** extending substantially the length thereof. Of course, the hair section treatment channel **414** may extend the entire length of the substantially rectilinear body **412**.

The substantially rectilinear body **412** is constructed of a lightweight, flexible, resilient, washable, porous, absorbent foam or fabric.

As best shown in FIG. 11, each hair section receiving channel **414** comprises a slot or groove **416** including two absorbent interior surfaces **418** extending from the outer surface **420** of the substantially rectilinear body **412** to substantially the center **422** thereof and a third absorbent interior surface **418**.

Although substantially cylindrical or substantially rectilinear bodies **12**, **112**, **212**, **312** and **412** of foam are depicted, foam sheets may be used to wrap the sections of hair.

It will thus be seen that the objects set forth above, among those made apparent from the preceding description are efficiently attained and since certain changes may be made in the above construction without departing from the scope of the invention, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description or shown in the accompanying drawing shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

It is also to be understood that the following claims are intended to cover all of the generic and specific features of the invention herein described, and all statements of the scope of the invention which, as a matter of language, might be said to fall therebetween.

Now that the invention has been described,

What is claimed is:

1. A hair treatment applicator to chemically treat a section of hair for highlighting, frosting, perming, coloring, decoloring, straightening, neutralizing, relaxing, or conditioning comprising an elongated body of flexible, resilient porous material having an outer surface and an inner core including at least one hair section treatment channel extending from said outer surface into said inner core of said elongated body, said hair section treatment channel including at least two interior absorbent surfaces, said channel retaining the entire length of a section of hair to be treated and separating the

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section of hair to be treated from adjacent strands of hair while said elongated body of flexible resilient porous material and the section of hair are manually manipulated to distribute a treating chemical over the section of hair within said hair section treatment channel and to shield the section of hair to be treated from the environs to reduce the effects of temperature and humidity on the treating chemical.

2. A method of chemically treating a section of hair for highlighting, frosting, perming, coloring, decoloring, straightening, neutralizing, relaxing, or conditioning comprising an elongated body of flexible, resilient porous material having an outer surface and an inner core including at least one hair section treatment channel extending from said outer surface into said inner core of said elongated body, said hair section treatment channel including at least two interior absorbent surfaces, said channel retaining the entire length of a section of hair to be treated with a treating chemical and separating the section of hair to be treated from adjacent strands of hair while allowing said elongated body of flexible resilient porous material and section of hair to be manually manipulated to distribute the treating chemical over the section of hair within said hair section treatment channel and to shield the section of hair to be treated from the environs to reduce the effects of temperature and humidity on the treating chemical, said method comprising the steps of:

forming a section of hair

applying the treating chemical to the section of hair

placing the section of hair in the hair section treatment channel

manipulating the flexible, resilient, porous material to distribute the treating chemical over and through the section of hair

squeezing the flexible, resilient, porous material to allow excess treatment chemical to be absorbed into the interior absorbent surfaces

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allowing the treating chemical to effectively treat the section of hair and

removing the section of hair from the elongated body.

3. A method of chemically treating a section of hair for highlighting, frosting, perming, coloring, decoloring, straightening, neutralizing, relaxing, or conditioning comprising an elongated body of flexible, resilient porous material having an outer surface and an inner core including at least one hair section treatment channel extending from said outer surface into said inner core of said elongated body, said hair section treatment channel including at least two interior absorbent surfaces, said channel retaining the entire length of a section of hair to be treated with a treating chemical and separating the section of hair to be treated from adjacent strands of hair while allowing said elongated body of flexible resilient porous material and section of hair to be manually manipulated to distribute the treating chemical over the section of hair within said hair section treatment channel and to shield the section of hair to be treated from the environs to reduce the effects of temperature and humidity on the treating chemical, said method comprising the steps of:

forming a section of hair

placing the section of hair in the hair section treatment channel

applying the treating chemical to the section of hair

manipulating the flexible, resilient, porous material to distribute the treating chemical over and through the section of hair

squeezing the flexible, resilient, porous material to allow excess treatment chemical to be absorbed into the said interior absorbent surfaces

allowing the treating chemical to effectively treat the section of hair and

removing the section of hair from the hair elongated body.

* * * * *